

The Benton Welty Historic Classroom
At City Hall
1225 Lincoln Way
Auburn, California

This building was originally used as a grammar school. It was built in 1915. It followed several other schools on this property beginning with the 1866 school that Capt. Alden Radcliffe built on this property once owned by Capt. and Mrs. Ina Grant.

That wooden building was demolished and in 1874 another school was placed here built by Charles Hicks. In 1879 they added the bell tower and successful gold miner, E. M. Hall donated the big bell. Later, in 1890, a second school followed built by Davis and Garrett.

Both of the old wooden schools were removed when William Henry Weeks was hired to build this brick building for a grammar school. The first classes were held in 1916.

In 1923 Benton Welty was hired as school principal, he was a respected and loved administrator. He retired in 1943.

The school closed in 1964 and the building was used as school district offices until 1987.

In 1987 the citizens of Auburn voted yes on Measure A to remodel and more importantly to retrofit the building to match earthquake standards. The City Hall opened its doors in 1990.

In 1996 the Retired Teachers Association, the Placer County Historical Museum Foundation and the Placer County Historical Society decorated room 5 to recreate the look of an early classroom.

In 2012, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today the historic classroom is an important part of sharing our history to school groups and individual visitors. School tours need to make an appointment by calling 530-885-1538. Currently the classroom is open to the public from 11 to 2 Monday-Thursday.

